



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2766
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

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TO: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – SUMMER PLACE
GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Summer Place Group Home. Summer Place contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation). Summer Place is a six-bed facility located in San Bernardino County that provides care for girls ages 10-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Summer Place was providing services for one Los Angeles (LA) County DCFS child and five children from San Bernardino County.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review was to verify that Summer Place was providing the services outlined in its Program Statement. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues and included an evaluation of Summer Place's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and an interview with the one LA County child placed with Summer Place at the time of the review. The interview with the resident was designed to obtain her perspective on the program services provided by Summer Place, and to ensure its adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Summary of Findings

Generally, Summer Place was providing the services outlined in its Program Statement. However, we noted that Summer Place needs to make a few repairs to its facility and offer each resident a life book.

Attached is a detailed report of the review findings.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required to provide DCFS with a written corrective action plan within fifteen business days from the receipt of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Patrick McMahon at (213) 974-0729.

JTM:PM:CC

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Public Information Office
Audit Committee
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer
James Dubose, Executive Director, Summer Place Group Home

**SUMMER PLACE
2027 Deodar Street
Ontario, CA 91764
Phone: 909-945-2736
License No.: 360911286
Rate Classification Level: 8**

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: One

Comments:

Summer Place is a large home located on a residential street. This facility is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends in with the other homes on the block. No observable safety hazards were noted.

The interior of the home was generally neat and clean with common rooms nicely decorated and maintained. Resident bedrooms were spacious, comfortable and personalized with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks. However, there were a few areas in need of improvement.

In the resident bedrooms, some areas around the walls needed repainting and, in the third bedroom, the light fixture cover was missing.

There was age-appropriate play equipment in the home including table games, a TV and VCR. A supply of reading materials was available along with educational materials, supplies for arts and crafts, and a computer. However, the swing set in the back yard was broken.

There was a sufficient supply of properly stored frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit.

Recommendations

1. Summer Place management:

- a. Repaint the walls in the resident bedrooms as needed.**
- b. Replace the ceiling light fixture cover in the third bedroom.**
- c. Repair/Replace the swing set in the backyard.**

II. PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: One

Comments:

The Los Angeles (LA) County resident met Summer Place's population criteria as outlined in their program statement and received an initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the program.

The Needs and Services Plan (NSP) was current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. The child and her placement worker participated in the developing and updating of the NSP.

The Quarterly Report was current, comprehensive, timely, and focused on the goals of the NSP.

The resident was being provided with services as required by the program statement including individual and group therapy.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: One

Comments:

The resident was enrolled in school and her records contained report cards and/or progress reports. The resident required and had an Individualized Education Plan. The resident reported that she was provided with a sufficient amount of educational stimulation away from school on a daily basis and that staff was supportive of her academic progress.

Development of daily living skills was part of Summer Place's program. The resident was involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals, hygiene care was discussed as needed, and employment preparation encouraged.

The resident was not old enough to participate in emancipation and vocational programs.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Summer Place provided its residents with sufficient opportunity to participate in both on-ground and off-ground recreational activities. The resident expressed satisfaction with the variety and the quantity of activities provided by Summer Place and stated that the recreation schedule was followed.

Local community organizations were utilized for recreation and program resources. The resident reported that she participated in the planning of some of the activities, had ample free time, and was able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation was provided to and from activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

There was one LA County resident placed in the home at the time of the review. A review of the resident's case file was not conducted as she was not prescribed psychotropic medication.

Comments:

According to management, the resident was not receiving psychotropic medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS**Method of assessment – Resident interviews****Sample size for resident interviews: One****Comments:**

The resident expressed satisfaction with the facility and staff. The resident participated in an initial orientation and the facility's policies and procedures were posted. The resident reported that she felt safe in the home and that there was no interference with daily living functions. The resident reported satisfaction with the food and with her ability to participate in menu development. The resident stated that staff supervision was appropriate and expressed satisfaction with the quality of her interactions with staff. The resident stated that the atmosphere was generally respectful and that there was at least one staff member she could trust and easily talk to.

The resident reported that the chores assigned to her were reasonable. She was able to have visitors, make and receive personal telephone calls, and contact her social worker, attorney, and family as needed. She stated that she had religious freedom and felt that staff respected the cultural lifestyles of residents by allowing them to celebrate different holidays.

The resident reported that the discipline policies were consistently enforced by the staff, and that she had fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

The resident was aware of her right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews****Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

Comments:

Summer Place provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. Summer Place supplies its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the resident is given the opportunity to select her own clothes. Clothing provided to the resident is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

Summer Place provided the resident with at least the required minimum weekly allowance that she was able to increase based on the agency's behavioral system.

Summer Place provides the resident with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store her personal items.

The resident did not have a life book.

Recommendations

- 3. Summer Place management provide each resident with a life book.**